



MEETING MINUTES

Golden Valley Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Task Force

Meeting #1 – August 1, 2016

Present:

Councilmember: Steve Schmidgall

Staff: Emily Goellner, Mike Kotila, Chloe McGuire Brigl, Marc Nevinski, Jeff Oliver, Jason Zimmerman

Task Force Members: Billy Binder, Kelly Grissman, Dawn Hill, Hubert Humphrey III, Paul Klaas, Robert Mattison, Paula Pentel, Dawn Peterson, Laura Pugh, Wendy Rubinyi

1. Call to Order

Steve Schmidgall called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

2. Introductions

Task Force members and staff introduced themselves and shared their favorite trail, path, or sidewalk in Golden Valley. The Luce Line was noted multiple times.

3. Project Timeline

Goellner gave an overview of the proposed schedule for meetings, reviewed the purpose of the Task Force, and gave a timeline of events for the next year.

The Task Force discussed ideas to connect with Hennepin County repaving projects as well as existing commissions, such as the Open Space Commission and Environmental Commission, in order to ensure continuity throughout the process and the Comprehensive Plan Update. The group noted that the different plans should align with each other.

Goellner reviewed each agenda for the four scheduled Task Force meetings.

4. Task Force Charter

Schmidgall introduced the Task Force Charter which outlined the process, purpose, and agreements from the Task Force, and asked for approval from the Task Force.

In relation to the Charter, the Task Force discussed member's roles and connections to the community. The Task Force also discussed reaching out to local connections such as homeowners associations and schools (Breck School, Good Shepherd Catholic School, Noble Elementary, Meadowbrook Elementary, School of Engineering and Arts, Perpich Center for Arts Education, and Hidden Lakes Homeowners Association).

The Task Force also discussed snow removal due to the City's responsibility to clear sidewalks in Golden Valley and stated that it could impact the ability for future sidewalk creation.

The Task Force asked about timeline for this work, and it was noted that this work will inform the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, which will be completed in 2018. The Plan will include long-term goals as well as short-term actions.

The Task Force discussed changing specific language in the charter and agreed upon changing the second numbered agreed to item from “the particular group they represent” to “any particular group they represent” to represent that not all task force members represent a particular group.

There was also discussion of communication guidelines and Open Meeting Law. Task Force Members were instructed by staff to send correspondence to Goellner rather than sending email correspondence directly to Task Force Members. Goellner will distribute information to Task Force Members periodically as it pertains to meeting agendas and the planning process.

MOTION: Schmidgall called for a vote on the Task Force Charter. Motion carried unanimously to approve the Task Force Charter, with changes noted above.

5. Review Background Information

Goellner recapped the information provided to the Task Force in their meeting packet, including the Humphrey School student capstone and the existing Comprehensive Plan. She noted that goal #3 is central to this Task Force. Goal #3 notes bicycle and pedestrian network improvements. Goellner also stated that comprehensive plans typically start broad with a goal and narrow to objectives and policies. Goellner stated that this is the portion of the comprehensive plan to be updated by the Task Force and that the goal setting activity should relate to this section.

6. Community Input Opportunities

Zimmerman discussed opportunities for community engagement throughout the comprehensive plan process, including events and online tools. Zimmerman noted that these are open for the public, as well as Task Force Members, and that there will be a focus group, surveys, and online mapping tools.

7. Group Exercise

Zimmerman introduced a summary of the goals that are noted in other local bicycle and pedestrian plans. These local plans from comparable communities informed the goal setting activity. The Task Force was asked to share the goals from a list that could would apply to bicycle and pedestrian planning in Golden Valley. The goals mentioned by Task Force Members were recorded on large sheets of paper by Zimmerman for the group to see. From the list of goals mentioned, Task Force members were given 5 dots and asked to vote for their favorite goals. The goals, priorities, and comments mentioned by the group included:

- Community health and active living
- Connections to local and regional destinations--especially places people want to go (6 votes)
- Safety for all people regardless of skill (3 votes)
- Collaboration across jurisdictions and city boundaries (2 votes)
- Collaborate with existing and upcoming projects, including the light rail and county paving projects (3 votes)
- More efficient bike commuting (2 votes)
- Crossing Highway 55 (4 votes)
- Removing barriers and gaps in the system (5 votes)
- Compatibility between driving, biking, walking; no one mode at the expense of the others (3 votes)

- Biking for pleasure and recreation
- Making a decision on whether or not bikes can be on sidewalks
- Educate the public on rules
- Enforce the laws
- Separate sidewalks and trails
- Uniform signage: visible and recognizable (1 vote)
- Aware of all users—commuters, families, recreation, etc.
- Consideration of bicycle boulevards (1 vote)
- Design to be comfortable, safe, and appealing (3 votes)
- North-south routes and greenway creation (8 votes)
- More bike racks in more locations, with good design (4 votes)
- Bike lane stencils and street signage, including bike lane separation (5 votes)
- Biker's personal responsibility, including education and training (1 vote)
- Right fit/location for each type of bike and user (1 vote)
- Create a toolkit of facilities for different situations, types of roads
- Create loop design for recreation (1 vote)
- Year-round, all season use (2 votes)
- Complete streets concept

8. Maps of Bicycle and Pedestrian Network

The Task Force requested that a detailed map of the bicycle and pedestrian network be made available to each Task Force Member so that each Member can formulate their recommendations for the network in preparation for the next meeting. Staff noted that they will prepare the maps and have them available for pick-up at City Hall.

The group also discussed the implementation of new roundabouts and the connection with bicycle and pedestrian networks. Oliver responded that new roundabouts will be put in, and that experienced bikers are welcome to ride in the roundabout, but there will be options for all bikers.

The group discussed having assignments to reach out to other agencies about their goals and needs for future pedestrian and bicycle usage. Zimmerman and Goellner stated that it would be nice to see who others have reached out to, but that there will not be assignments.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Schmidgall and seconded by Pentel to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Motion carried unanimously.